

Costco Foods: Culinary Confections

BY DEREK BREWER & AARON DURAN

Costco. Every man's paradise. Aaron Duran and myself took our talents to the beloved wholesale store, not to check out the smoking hot deals, but instead to dabble in the variety of foods served at the Costco food court.

Derek's Items

Costco Pizza: The first thing I noticed off was the mere size of this bad boy. I mean, Costco did NOT play around when it came to the portion size of their pizza. Being a plain guy, I went with cheese pizza to strictly focus on the pizza itself, not any toppings that could take away from the task at hand. The coverage of cheese was solid, I felt like there was a little too much cheese which I am not the biggest fan of. The sauce, however, was fire. I am a saucy guy, so I am a tad biased when they add extra sauce, but it wasn't necessarily the amount of sauce, rather the taste of it. It was tangy and hit the spot. The final boss and, in my opinion, the most vital part of the pizza, the crust. Let me tell you... this crust was straight bussin'. Thick crust combined with that sauce, wow! The crust really hit a home run and boosted the score of the pizza. My final score would have to be a 8.9. Costco doesn't play when it comes to their pizza.

Double Chunk Chocolate Cookie: This majestic dessert was absolutely wonderful to dive into. Off the bat, the gooey appearance and thickness was appealing, but it was the taste that won me over. The firm outer part and the soft center made this cookie so enjoyable. The crispness combined very well with the texture and made this cookie unique to many other cookies I have tried in the past. There is really not much else to say about this great cookie. The final rating for the double chunk chocolate cookie is a 9.6. Absolute banger of a cookie!

Aaron's Items

Chicken Bake: A personal favorite of mine, the chicken bake has had recent acclaim due to its online appearances in famous "Costco Guys" videos. Is it all hype or is the chicken bake a standout?

The chicken bake is filled with chopped chicken, bacon bit inclusions, and a three-cheese blend of mozzarella, provolone, and parmesan. Although the ingredients are simple the chicken bake is far from it. The chicken bake has levels of complexity unrivaled on the Costco menu, and the intricacy of the meat and cheese blend is a splendid experience on the palette. The size of the chicken bake is also nothing to scoff at coming in at nearly a foot long. Even with the recent size decrease, the chicken bake is a value meal for \$3.99. For the actual taste though, the chicken bake is superb, the chicken and cheese synergize akin to peanut butter and jelly. The texture is also a high point with its crunchy breading on the outside with melted cheese on top, but that's just the outside. Everyone knows the inside is what counts. The inside is a warm, proportional bite the entire way through, and I'd give the chicken bake overall a 9/10.

Hot Dog Weenie

Before I begin it is pertinent to preface my review with the fact that I am biased against the hot dog, and if it weren't for the review I would not have ordered it myself. That being said, I was wowed. Beginning with the price, I was astounded by the \$1.50 price tag for a quarter pound of meat nestled neatly between a plain wheat bun. If there were something to nag about it is the simplicity of the meal, but other than the bun the actual dog is highly customizable. For this review I indulged in a hotdog with ketchup and mustard. There is also the option for additional toppings like relish and the recent return of chopped onions. The first bite was a little bit lackluster to be frank, but the hotdog only improved exponentially, because the following bites had less bun, more toppings, and more meat. The Costco hot dog by no means revolutionizes the frankfurter game but it is good at what it does, and more importantly it is consistent, boasting its \$1.50 price tag since its introduction in 1985. I would give the hotdog a 6/10 for its taste alone, but for its value I am awarding it a 7/10 overall.

The March for Life: A Surprising Pilgrimage

BY DAVID BARKMEIER

One thing's for sure, life is surprising.

The March for Life is a national event in Washington D.C. where hundreds of thousands of people from all over the country join together to fight for the life of the unborn and support for women. Two days before most Nebraskans take the long trek to the nation's capital city, I got a call from my mom with the news that I was going to be one of those travelers. Skutt asked my mom to be a chaperone, and she would only do it if I came along. So there I was, the only non-Skutt student on a packed bus with a full week of school work in my bag.

You could say I wasn't super pumped in the beginning being the odd one out, but everyone's welcoming demeanor helped me get comfortable real quick. I had to, because we had over a twenty four hour bus ride in front of us. From the start of the trip, we were told that this would not only be a trip but a pilgrimage, and I found this to be true. Sleeping on the bus (which is far from beauty sleep), no downtime, and the intensity of what we saw rendered me exhausted. And with this exhaustion came another challenge: patience. Usually I am a patient person, but during this trip I had to really fight to listen, contain my anger, and just downright be kind to people. But, life is surprising.

I was grateful to be there. My 8th grade D.C. trip got canceled because of COVID-19, so I had never made the trip before. I was able to go to some of the places I have always wanted to see, my favorite being the Lincoln Memorial and the Smithsonian Museum, naturally. We did some more profound and powerful things as

well, like praying in front of an abortion clinic, Mass in beautiful churches everyday, visiting the Holocaust Museum, and, yes, the March for Life.

I could barely fathom the amount of people that were at the march. Some were praying the rosary, others were yelling fun chants, and several were silently walking in deep thought. But everyone was joined together for a single cause: the unborn and their mothers. It's hard to be pro-life when it seems like the general society is so pro-abortion. I sometimes feel singled out and even lonely in fighting for a basic human right. However, after going on this March, I know I'm not alone. There are people nationally, regionally, and even locally like through the Skutt group.

A bus of 50+ Skutt students, faculty, and parents dedicated a week of their life for the pro-life movement. They have a pro-life club that meets up at least every month to discuss important topics and future plans. Mount Michael doesn't offer the opportunity to attend the March, let alone have a pro-life club.

As the trip was coming to a close, I finally realized that I was called here by God to witness this Skutt community, and then pass this knowledge

to the Mount Michael community.

This is a call to action. We are a Benedictine school with deep roots and strong faith. Let's act like it. Let's bring back pro-life walks, missionary trips, even just something as simple as a club. It's not something else's job, it's ours. I don't have a lot of time left here at Mount Michael, but one thing's for sure: you know what I'll be doing.



Picture courtesy of David Barkmeier

Bracketology 101: Knight Edition

BY DEREK BREWER

Isaak Meysenburg '26

One statistical bracket selection process comes from Isaak Meysenburg. "I have been flipping through the playbooks and believe this is the only way to go about filling out a good ol' March maddy tourney bracky. I analyze each team roster and focus on the players that just look like they would be ballers and look like a pure basketballer. This could range from drip, hairstyle. I focus on the two teams' rosters and from there pick the team that has the highest percentage of true ballers. Historically, geographically, and statistically speaking this strategy should result in picking the rightfully skilled team and a perfect bracket. All it takes is one more skilled looking player on a team to earn my pick!"

Thomas Schroer '27

One of our sophomores has taken a standard approach to filling out his bracket. Thomas "Joe Traer" Schroer stated that he is, "choosing based off of schedules and who they won and lost to for the first four games but otherwise who I think has the best chance to win." Although this may be a standard approach, it definitely can pay off assuming all the top seeds win and there are little to no upsets or Cinderella teams.

Nathan Oldehoeft '28

A basketball fanatic in the class of 2028, Nathan Oldehoeft, had a rather normal strategy for filling out his bracket. As a ride or die Creighton Bluejays fan, many thought Oldehoeft would choose his beloved 9 seed to win it all. But as a realist, Oldehoeft realized the odds of a 9 seed winning March Madness are slim. When asked about his game plan, Oldehoeft stated, "I look for team qualities such as team chemistry and experience in the tournament. If a team has these qualities they will have a good chance of winning a few games."

Graphic by Derek Brewer



The Mount

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